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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 040356-0439

In re patent application of

Shigeru KAMEGAYA et al.

Serial No.: Unassigned

Filed: April 2, 2002

For: FUEL CELL DRIVE SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered into the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace Claims 5, 6, 7, 12, 16, and 20 as originally filed with the following amended Claims:

--5. (Amended) The drive system as defined in Claim 1, wherein:
supply of reformat gas to the fuel cell (26) is shut off when the system starts up.

6. (Amended) The drive system as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:
a vaporizer (28) which vaporizes fuel and supplies fuel gas to the gas supply device
(19), wherein:

when the system start-up has been completed, the reformat gas supply to the fuel
cell (26) is started after the fuel supply to the vaporizer (28) has started, and the gas supply
device (19) stops generation of the high temperature gas containing the fuel component for
the reforming reaction.

7.(Amended) The drive system as defined in Claim 3, wherein:
the first air supply mechanism (36) supplies air at downstream of the second fuel
supply mechanism (30).

12. (Amended) The drive system as defined in Claim 3, wherein:
a vaporizing plate (42) which catches and vaporizes fuel supplied from the second fuel supply mechanism (30), is provided upstream of the second fuel supply mechanism (30).

16. (Amended) The drive system as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:
a CO removal device (23) which removes carbon monoxide in the reformat gas generated by the reformer (22).

20. (Amended) The drive system as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:
an anode exhaust combustor (27) which burns a mixture of anode exhaust containing hydrogen and cathode exhaust containing oxygen.--

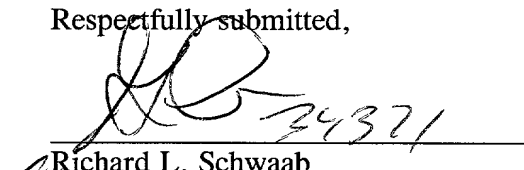
REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments to Claims 5, 6, 7, 12, 16, and 20 be entered in order to avoid this application incurring a surcharge for the presence of one or more multiple dependent claims. A marked-up version of the Claims showing the changes made is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

April 2, 2002

Date


Richard L. Schwaab

Registration No. 25,479

FOLEY & LARDNER
3000 K Street, N.W. Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5109
(202) 672-5300

VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

5. The drive system as defined in [any of Claims 1-4] Claim 1, wherein:
supply of reformat gas to the fuel cell (26) is shut off when the system starts up.

6. The drive system as defined in [any of Claims 1-4] Claim 1, further comprising:
a vaporizer (28) which vaporizes fuel and supplies fuel gas to the gas supply device (19), wherein:

when the system start-up has been completed, the reformat gas supply to the fuel cell (26) is started after the fuel supply to the vaporizer (28) has started, and the gas supply device (19) stops generation of the high temperature gas containing the fuel component for the reforming reaction.

7. The drive system as defined in Claim 3[or Claim 4], wherein:
the first air supply mechanism (36) supplies air at downstream of the second fuel supply mechanism (30).

12. The drive system as defined in [any of Claim 3, 4 or 7-11] Claim 3, wherein:
a vaporizing plate (42) which catches and vaporizes fuel supplied from the second fuel supply mechanism (30), is provided upstream of the second fuel supply mechanism (30).

16. The drive system as defined in [any of Claims 1-4] Claim 1, further comprising:
a CO removal device (23) which removes carbon monoxide in the reformat gas generated by the reformer (22).

20. The drive system as defined in [any of Claims 1-4] Claim 1, further comprising:
an anode exhaust combustor (27) which burns a mixture of anode exhaust containing hydrogen and cathode exhaust containing oxygen.